

Ruach (Breath of Life) Ministries Prayer Perspectives from the Peninsula



- ✓ Including perspectives on both the good and bad aspects of the situation inside Iraq.
- ✓ “The biggest demonstration of Christian kindness in American history” ~ stirring as well as sobering thoughts from the storms in America.
- ✓ ‘The Perversion of Love’ ~ praying into the horrors of human trafficking.

Spiritual Heath and Well-being Warning:
We do not expect everyone to take up every topic we highlight in prayer. At any point, however, the Spirit of God can ‘activate’ what you take time to read and ponder, and lead you into effective prayer!

Ø IRAQ

At the final MFOT Trustees meeting, the Lord gave us a strong word that America was being lured into something of a trap in Iraq. At about the same time, SJ Pigott, then 16, had a word about Pandora’s box; that something was going to be let out of a box that would not be able to be put back in again afterwards.

The extent of the problem becomes clearer each day. We certainly supported the removal of Saddam Hussein, although it has now become clear that his primary reason for giving the impression that he had weapons for mass destruction was less to defy America (or the UN) than to intimidate Iran. It could certainly be argued that we went to war on false premises.

Huge pressure is likely to come now to pull British troops out of Iraq in the aftermath of the horrifying events that were seen by millions around the world. British soldiers refused to retaliate and managed (just!) to escape with both themselves and their vehicle on fire, only to be pelted and pursued by a mob from the very people they were trying to serve.

Patrick Bishop, who has made numerous visits to Iraq, has written a well-informed article that deserves serious consideration. You can find it by copying and pasting the following address on your server:
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/main.jhtml?xml=/opinion/2005/09/21/do2102.xml>

Like many of us, Patrick, was hopeful that the crowds who initially cheered for Bush and Blair were ready for democracy. But he has become acutely aware that the town of Basra is now effectively in the hands of gunmen of the Badr Brigades, loyal only to their radical leader Moqtada al Sadr. He is well aware that our government will not find it easy to admit a complete change of course is necessary, but he concludes that it *must* do so.

‘The softly softly approach has not worked. Instead of creating a stable society Basra has fallen under the sway of mullah-ridden gunmen. It is difficult to say where the

militias end and the police begin. Handing over responsibility to the security forces in their current state is out of the question. We should set a realistic timetable for thoroughly reforming them – two years at least in the view of some experts. The pain involved in the short term will be less than the creeping attrition of an open-ended commitment.'

Pray for the way the debate develops, for the decisions that are reached, and for all the people who will be influenced by them.

“The war on terrorism and the effort to bring democratic reform to the Middle East is the most important enterprise in which America is involved,” wrote James Taranto, the editor of www.OpinionJournal.com. “But you don’t get the sense that the mainstream media appreciate this. You get the sense that they’re rooting for America to lose — or at least that they wouldn’t be upset if America lost.” Which is what makes the following item so special.

Good news from Iraq. You may have heard of the splendid blog site run by an Australian in Iraq who set himself to chronicle details of the *good* things that are happening inside Iraq. The site received three million hits before it had to close when the author took a job that would have ruled out any further blogging. Do check it out, if only to honour his faithfulness. (<http://www.chrenkoff.blogspot.com>)

Amongst a huge number of items the author highlights are the publication of 51 million new Ba’ath-free textbooks for Iraqi schoolchildren. The “brain drain in reverse” that is bringing many well-educated Iraqi expatriates back to their homeland to teach. In his final edition, Chrenkoff wrote,

“I don’t know what Iraq and Afghanistan will look like in five or 10 years’ time, but I hope for the best. If, despite all the horrendous problems and challenges, both countries manage to make it through and join the international family of normal, decent, and peaceful nations, many people will wonder how they managed to get there. ‘But you, who have read these round-ups for the past year and a half, will not be surprised.’”

Jihad

For a rather less happy window into the Middle East, you will find an article at http://www.memri.org/bin/opener_latest.cgi?ID=SD99005 that incites the citizens of Saudi Arabia to donate money specifically for the purposes of waging jihad. (See also www.americanthinker.com, a site that sets out to fill in the bits that other media coverage fail to highlight).

Germany. What happens to Europe’s most populous nation will always be of significance to the whole of Europe. As we write, the outcome is highly confused. Continue to pray for the political leaders as they seek to thrash out an agreement as to who should run the country – whether Angela Merkel or Gerhard Schroder – and for God’s blessing on Germany in the aftermath of this inconclusive election.

- Ø By contrast, we can give thanks for the relatively successful elections in **Afghanistan** last week. Many parts of the American press would do anything rather than give credit to the American politicians and soldiers who have worked so hard to make this possible. Continue to pray for **President Hamid Kharzai**.

Ø **The Gulf Coast, USA** Most of us will know people in the area that will be affected by the vast storm now advancing on America. It is enormously easy to identify with what they will be going through. Many are wondering whether the US really did invade Iraq for its oil, in which case the fact that oil rigs and refineries right in the path of the hurricane will undoubtedly feel like part of God's wake-up call to America. If we give the devil access, he will not fail to take advantage. David Wilkerson has much to say on this subject. <http://www.tscpulpitseries.org/english/1980s/ts880613.html> -- though by no means everybody will agree with his perspective.

As the Gulf Coast waits nervously for deliverance from the onslaught of Hurricane Rita, here are some insights sent out by www.joelnews.org that it is good to reflect on.

“The biggest demonstration of Christian kindness in American history”

As the German news magazine *Focus* put it, New Orleans stood for lust, swing, paddleboats and Mardi Gras. Now it stands for suffering, lawlessness and death," But that is by no means the whole story. "God spoke loud and clear through the storm," said James Graham, director of International Gospel Outreach. "He is telling us that it's time to drop our denominational walls and work together. The need along the Gulf Coast is making us do that."

It was not only scientists who predicted the catastrophe. Rick Joyner mentions that in 1998, his movement received a prophecy that **"New Orleans will look like an estuary."** Joyner later wrote, "Over the next few years a great move of God will spread over that region, and many who have lost all of their possessions will gain something far better – eternal life . . . There is a lot of witchcraft coming from New Orleans and it wants to cause as much death as possible."

On 29th August 2004, **(that is, one year to the day before the catastrophe)**, Chuck Pierce prophesied:

“The wind and water will rise in the midst of New Orleans. Many from the south will come north for refuge. Prepare. Prepare now for winds and water that will surprise you... Prepare! Shift! Saul will be no more. David will arise from this day forward. The wind from the south will begin to blow. Watch for the effects. This will purify the land and bring great change . . . Get ready . . . for the new is coming. Every place I blow on will shake. The wind is coming on Louisiana and it will shake the entire state. The south purifying wind of My holiness will sweep across Louisiana.”

(J. Lee Grady, editor of *Charisma* magazine) writes, "You've heard about the corpses in the streets, the cars stuck in trees, the people trapped in attics, the looting in New Orleans and the federal government's embarrassingly slow response to Hurricane Katrina. But did you hear about the man who was healed of deafness when a volunteer counsellor prayed for him at a refugee shelter in Dallas two weeks ago?"

“Most news broadcasts about the storm have been depressing. **But a thousand small miracles have occurred since people of faith rushed to help homeless evacuees and stranded survivors.** Churches and Christian relief organizations have sent millions of dollars in aid to the Gulf Coast and to evacuees nationwide.

Samaritan's Purse, World Vision, Convoy of Hope, Operation Blessing and hundreds of lesser-known charities have partnered with local churches to provide what will be remembered as the biggest demonstration of Christian kindness in American history." Of the examples which Grady gives, we will mention just a few here:

- ✓ A 100-member congregation in Pascagoula, Mississippi, who lost their building in the storm is feeding 3,000 people a day from their parking lot.
- ✓ A Missouri church is covering the monthly payroll of a church in Slidell, Louisiana, that was flooded. A Maryland church is offering to put 25 displaced families into homes, and is chartering a jet to fly the evacuees to Baltimore. And a church in Sri Lanka that funneled American aid to tsunami victims recently sent a \$10,000 check to Convoy of Hope to help Katrina survivors.
- ✓ Trey Miller, youth pastor at Life Center, took a team of 25 teenagers to Pascagoula, Mississippi, last weekend to help elderly people repair their water-logged homes. Explained Miller: "One old man kept asking, 'How much are you charging?' I told him, 'We aren't charging you anything.' He walked around in amazement all day, and he wouldn't let go of my hand when it was time to leave."
- ✓ The tragedy has already led to many conversions. May there be many more in the coming weeks and months!

Perversion of Love: The crime and the shame of human trafficking

Father, we ask You to rescue people who are caught up in webs of evil. Hear the cries of the those who are turning to You. We cry to You that human trafficking may receive all the media attention that is necessary in order for effective action to be taken to break up this hugely cruel and lucrative trade, and to protect young women. In Jesus, name, Amen.

In *The Real Sex Traffic* programme the other night, it was suggested that upwards of 500,000 girls are sold each year into the sex trade, particularly from Russian and the Ukraine. The programme followed some of the heart breaking stories of the devastation it brought to the young women caught up in this wicked trade, and to their families back home. It is a really tragic story. The ruthless pimp who was caught as a result of the program's investigation should have received an automatic sentence of at least five years in a Ukrainian jail: we saw him instead being let off with probation in a complete farce of a trial. (This also highlights the need to keep praying for the Ukraine.)¹

It is love that enables people to stand up for causes that are too righteous to be popular, and to pay the cost when those who feel challenged by their stand turn and wreak revenge. We pray today for all who are involved in fighting injustice of all kinds out of love for Jesus and the broken ones on earth.

¹ To explore related issues, try www.poppy.in.com. Also, <http://www.mw.org/campaigns/argnamstall/> then click on 'women's rights' for a worldwide perspective. Or type 'help' & 'human' & 'trafficking' in Google search. There are sure to be specifically Christian organisations involved in these fields, although we are not in touch with them.

I have given the innocuous picture opposite (which features an entirely *innocent* bystander) a thought-provoking caption in order to highlight the need to pray for those many who are in real danger.

Pray for the innocent to be protected from sinister and shadowy figures.



May the Lord's grace and mercy be with all affected by Hurricane Rita

God bless you all,

In His love,

Robert & Rosalind

Ruach Breath of Life Ministries

Take a tour: www.ruachministries.org

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